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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/773,009

02/05/2004

Andrew Harvey Barr

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HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

TA, THO DAC

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/773,009	BARR, ANDREW HARVEY	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tho D. Ta	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 12-15, 17, 18, 23-25, 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Loudermilk et al. (5,687,233).

In regard to claim 1, Loudermilk et al. discloses a connector comprising: a first contact 120 that contacts a conductor of a first circuit (mating connector); a second contact 130 that contacts a conductor of a second circuit (PCB where 132a is mounted); and a capacitor C1-C7 coupled between the first and second contacts whereby, the connector capacitively couples the conductor of the first circuit to the conductor of the second circuit.

In regard to claim 2, Loudermilk et al. discloses that an electrically insulative body 110 encapsulating the capacitor C1-C7 and carrying the first and second contacts 120, 130.

In regard to claim 3, Loudermilk et al. discloses that the second contact 130 is a male contact.

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In regard to claim 4, Loudermilk et al. discloses the first contact 120 is a female contact.

In regard to claim 6, Loudermilk et al. discloses that the first and second contacts 120, 130 are disposed substantially transverse to each other (see 122 and 132).

In regard to claim 7, Loudermilk et al. discloses that a plurality of first contacts 120, a like plurality of second contacts 130, and a like plurality of capacitors C1-C7, each capacitor coupled between a different respective pair of the first and second contacts (see figures 4 and 5).

In regard to claim 12, Loudermilk et al. discloses that the second circuit is a printed circuit board (where 132a is mounted).

In regard to claim 13, Loudermilk et al. discloses a connector comprising: an insulative body 110; a first contact 120 carried by the body 110 that contacts a conductor of a first circuit (mating connector); a second contact 130 carried by the body 110 that contacts a conductor of a second circuit (PCB where 132a is mounted); and a capacitor C1-C7 encapsulated within the body 110 and coupled between the first and second contacts 120, 130 whereby, the connector capacitively couples the conductor of the first circuit to the conductor of the second circuit.

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In regard to claim 14, Loudermilk et al. discloses that the second contact 130 is a male contact.

In regard to claim 15, Loudermilk et al. discloses the first contact 120 is a female contact.

In regard to claim 17, Loudermilk et al. discloses that the first and second contacts 120, 130 are disposed substantially transverse to each other (see 122 and 132).

In regard to claim 18, Loudermilk et al. discloses that a plurality of first contacts 120, a like plurality of second contacts 130, and a like plurality of capacitors C1-C7, each capacitor coupled between a different respective pair of the first and second contacts (see figures 4 and 5).

In regard to claim 23, Loudermilk et al. discloses that the second circuit is a printed circuit board (where 132a is mounted).

In regard to claim 24, Loudermilk et al. discloses a connector comprising: a plurality of first contact 120, each first contact 120 contacting a respective one of a like plurality of conductors of a first circuit (mating connector); a second like plurality of contacts 130, each second contact 130 contacting a respective one of a like plurality of

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conductors of a second circuit (PCB where 132a is mounted); and a like plurality of capacitors C1-C7 coupled between respective pairs of the first and second contacts whereby, the connector capacitively couples each conductor of the first circuit to a corresponding respective conductor of the second circuit.

In regard to claim 25, Loudermilk et al. discloses that an electrically insulative body 110 encapsulating the capacitor C1-C7 and carrying the first and second contacts 120, 130.

In regard to claim 27, Loudermilk et al. discloses that the first contacts 120 and the second contacts 130 are disposed substantially transverse to each other.

3. Claims 1, 5, 13, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dolin, Jr. (5,192,231).

In regard to claim 1, Dolin, Jr. discloses a connector comprising: a first contact 20 that contacts a conductor of a first circuit (first mating connector); a second contact 30 that contacts a conductor of a second circuit (second mating connector); and a capacitor 35 coupled between the first and second contacts whereby, the connector capacitively couples the conductor of the first circuit to the conductor of the second circuit.

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In regard to claim 5, Dolin, Jr. discloses the first and second contacts 20, 30 are disposed along a substantially common line.

In regard to claim 13, Dolin, Jr. discloses a connector comprising: an insulative body 12; a first contact 20 carried by the body 12 that contacts a conductor of a first circuit (first mating connector); a second contact 30 carried by the body 12 that contacts a conductor of a second circuit (second mating connector); and a capacitor 35 encapsulated within the body 12 and coupled between the first and second contacts 20, 30 whereby, the connector capacitively couples the conductor of the first circuit to the conductor of the second circuit.

In regard to claim 16, Dolin, Jr. discloses the first and second contacts 20, 30 are disposed along a substantially common line.

4. Claims 1, 7-10, 13, 18-21, 24, 26, 28, 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Swift (5,188,543).

In regard to claim 1, Swift discloses a connector comprising: a first contact 20 that contacts a conductor of a first circuit (first mating connector); a second contact 10 that contacts a conductor of a second circuit; and a capacitor 11 coupled between the first and second contacts whereby, the connector capacitively couples the conductor of the first circuit to the conductor of the second circuit.

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In regard to claim 7, Swift discloses that a plurality of first contacts 20, a like plurality of second contacts 10, and a like plurality of capacitors 11, each capacitor coupled between a different respective pair of the first and second contacts (see figures 7 and 8).

In regard to claim 8, Swift discloses that the plurality of first contacts 20 and the plurality of second contacts 10 lie in a substantially common plane.

In regard to claim 9, Swift discloses that the plural contact sets of the plurality of first and second contacts 10, 20 lying in a substantially common plane.

In regard to claim 10, Swift discloses that the plural contact sets 10, 20 are disposed substantially parallel to each other.

In regard to claim 13, Swift discloses a connector comprising: an insulative body (see figures 1, 5, 6); a first contact 20 carried by the body 23, 31, 33 that contacts a conductor of a first circuit (mating connector); a second contact 10 carried by the body that contacts a conductor of a second circuit (the opposite side of 20); and a capacitor 11 encapsulated within the body and coupled between the first and second contacts 20, 10 whereby, the connector capacitively couples the conductor of the first circuit to the conductor of the second circuit.

In regard to claim 18, Swift discloses that a plurality of first contacts 20, a like plurality of second contacts 10, and a like plurality of capacitors 11, each capacitor coupled between a different respective pair of the first and second contacts (see figures 7 and 8).

In regard to claim 19, Swift discloses that the plurality of first contacts 20 and the plurality of second contacts 10 lie in a substantially common plane.

In regard to claim 20, Swift discloses that the plural contact sets of the plurality of first and second contacts 10, 20 lying in a substantially common plane.

In regard to claim 21, Swift discloses that the plural contact sets 10, 20 are disposed substantially parallel to each other.

In regard to claim 24, Swift discloses a connector comprising: a plurality of first contact 20, each first contact 20 contacting a respective one of a like plurality of conductors of a first circuit (mating connector); a second like plurality of contacts 10, each second contact 10 contacting a respective one of a like plurality of conductors of a second circuit (opposite side of 20); and a like plurality of capacitors 11 coupled between respective pairs of the first and second contacts whereby, the connector capacitively couples each conductor of the first circuit to a corresponding respective conductor of the second circuit.

In regard to claim 26, Swift discloses the corresponding first and second contacts 20, 10 are disposed along a substantially common line.

In regard to claim 28, Swift discloses the plurality of first contacts 20 and the plurality of second contacts 10 are divided into contact sets and wherein the first and second contacts of each contact set lie in a substantially common plane.

In regard to claim 29, Swift discloses that the contact sets are disposed substantially parallel to each other.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 11, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swift.

In regard to the recitation "an integrated circuit", it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

tdt
10/13/04